

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OMB-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-07 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-03 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02

IO-10 PRS-01 /064 W

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R 021147Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0511

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, QA

SUBJ: QATAR OIL NOTES: DISCUSSION WITH MINISTER OF PETROLEUM

REF: DOHA 0611

1. DURING JUNE 2 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, GOQ MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI, COMMENTED ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS.

2. RE OPEC MINISTERIAL, ACCORDING ABDUL AZIZ, PRINCIPAL AGENDA ITEMS ARE PROPOSAL THAT OIL PAYMENTS BE MADE IN SDRS AND OPEC BUDGET. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY, HE SAID THERE COULD BE "SIDE DISCUSSIONS" ON OIL PRICES. HE SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT ANTICIPATE MEETING WOULD DECIDE ON ANY INCREASE IN PRICES.

3. RE GOQ/OPERATING COMPANY IMPASSE ON PRICE OF QATARI CRUDE, ABDUL AZIZ STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO PRICE CUT AND RDQ HAD NO
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INTENTION OF GRANTING ONE. HE INSISTED THAT ANY PRICE CUT,

INCLUDING DECREASED SULFUR OR GRAVITY DIFFERENTIAL, MUST BE SANCTIONED BY "COLLECTIVE DECISION OF OPEC". HE ALLOWED THAT PRICE OF QATARI CRUDE COULD BE DISCUSSED AT OPEC MINISTERIAL NEXT WEEK. HE DODGED QUERY ABOUT PRICE CUTTING BY IRAQ AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS.

4. RE 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER NEGOTIATIONS, HE SAID "PRELIMINARY" DISCUSSIONS HAD RESUMED LAST WEEK BUT TALKS WERE NOW ADJOURNED UNTIL AFTER MID JUNE. HE DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS AS GOING SMOOTHLY IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE PROBLEM AREAS.

5. COMMENT: FURTHER RE GOQ/COMPANY IMPASSE ON PRICE, WE HAVE HEARD THAT PURCHASE CONTRACTS OF BOTH "OUTSIDE LIFTERS", CHARTER AND AMERADA HESS, ALSO COULD BE TERMINATED ON JUNE 30. CHABTER REP HAS VISITED DOHA DURING PAST TWO WEEKS, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS PRICE QUESTION; HE DID NOT CALL AT EMBASSY. UNLESS SOME AGREEMENT WORKED OUT, GOQ COULD BE FACED WITH DRASTIC DECREASE IN LIFTINGS BY END OF THIS MONTH.
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